REMARKS

[0003] Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of all

of the claims of the application. Claims 1-11 and 13-29 are presently pending.

Claims amended herein are 1-5, 13, 21, 22, and 26-29. Claims withdrawn or

cancelled herein are 12 and 30-33. No new claims are added herein.

Statement of Substance of Interview

[0004] The Examiner graciously talked with me—the undersigned

representative for the Applicant—on September 4, 2008. Applicant greatly

appreciates the Examiner's willingness to talk. Such willingness is invaluable to

both of us in our common goal of an expedited prosecution of this patent

application.

[0005] During the interview, I discussed how the claims differed from the

cited references. Without conceding the propriety of the rejections and in the

interest of expediting prosecution, I also proposed several possible clarifying

amendments.

[0006] The Examiner was receptive to the proposals, specifically the

clarification regarding "evaluating an association", as recited in amended claim 1.

The Examiner noted that the proposed claim amendment appeared to be allowable

over the cited references. The Examiner indicated, however, that he would need to

do another search, and requested that the proposed amendments be presented in

writing.

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[0007] Applicant herein amends the claims in the manner discussed during the interview. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the pending claims are allowable

over the cited art of record for at least the reasons discussed during the interview.

Formal Request for an Interview

[0008] If the Examiner's reply to this communication is anything other than

allowance of all pending claims, then I formally request an interview with the

Examiner. I encourage the Examiner to call me—the undersigned representative

for the Applicant—so that we can talk about this matter so as to resolve any

outstanding issues quickly and efficiently over the phone.

[0009] Please contact me to schedule a date and time for a telephone

interview that is most convenient for both of us. While email works great for me,

I welcome your call as well. My contact information may be found on the last

page of this response.

Claim Amendments

[0010] Without conceding the propriety of the rejections herein and in the

interest of expediting prosecution, Applicant amends claims 1-5, 13, 21, 22, and

26-29 herein. Applicant amends claims to clarify claimed features. Such

amendments are made to expedite prosecution and more quickly identify

allowable subject matter. Such amendments are merely intended to clarify the

claimed features, and should not be construed as further limiting the claimed

invention in response to the cited references.

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Substantive Matters

Claim Rejections under § 112 2nd ¶

Claims 26-29 and 30-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd ¶. [0011]

In light of the amendments presented herein, Applicant submits that these

rejections are moot. Accordingly, Applicant asks the Examiner to withdraw these

rejections.

Claim Rejections under § 101

Claims 12, 21 and 26-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101. In [0012]

light of the amendments presented herein, Applicant respectfully submits that

these claims now comply with the patentability requirements of §101 and that

the §101 rejections should be withdrawn.

If the Examiner maintains the rejection of these claims, then [0013]

Applicant requests additional guidance as to what is necessary to overcome the

rejection.

Claim Rejections under § 103

[0014] Claims 1-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103. In light of the

amendments presented herein and the discussion held during the above-

discussed Examiner interview, Applicant submits that these rejections are moot.

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Accordingly, Applicant asks the Examiner to withdraw these rejections.

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Conclusion

[0015] All pending claims are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and prompt issuance of the application. If any issues remain that prevent issuance of this application, the **Examiner is urged to contact me before issuing a subsequent Action**. Please call or email me at your convenience.

Dated:

September 11, 2008

Respectfully Submitted,

Lee & Hayes, PLLC Representatives for Applicant

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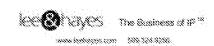
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